

how much did. they, can the}, sec of the
common humans
through whom any plan has to be worked ?
There are
suggestions, here, of a dangerously dropped
link There are
trained and expert observers wholly
sympathetic with the
ideal of planning, who feel the gravest
apprehensions lest
the whole thing break down on sheer lack of
elementary
human efficiency, who note that in the new
buildings, the
bricks are badly laid, the door and window
frames poorly
finished, the electrical work crude, who see the
shoddy of
which the clothes and boots are made, who,
after watching
the work in the new factories, are "not
surprised by com-
plaints about tractors breaking down" / The
schematic eye
may miss these crude facts, it is maddening to
have system
defeated by mere human mcompetency, but
these facts, in so
far as they are facts, are vital elements in any
considered
judgement It is disquieting to get the feeling
given, so far,
in their talks and lectures, that, foi them, these
things hardly
existed

On the other side—that of democracy—they
did see much
that they disliked and have not sought to
extenuate It
would be interesting weie they to put
themselves, on this, in
a position to compare Russia with Italy
Interesting, but
not necessary For they saw and have not
sought to deny
or mitigate a total absence of freedom, a lack of
variety, an
iron clamp on the young mind, and an effective
and oper-
ative tyranny, justified by the continuance of
"war con-
ditions," and evidenced in the universal

presence of spies
As Mrs Webb told a sympathetic interviewer,

"Even in our casual contact with members of the
Communist
Party, the repression of free thought and free
expression, in all
that concerns the structure of human society,
was obvious, it
was in fact openly defended as a necessary 'war
measure' to

^acf *The Economist*, October 1, 8, 15